

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1, 13, 21 and 22. Accordingly, claims 1-24 remain pending in the present application and are respectively presented for the Examiner's favorable reconsideration.

Initially, Applicant's undersigned attorney would like to express his appreciation to Supervisory Patent Examiner Hirshfeld for granting Applicant the courtesy of a telephonic interview on September 14, 2004. The foregoing amendments and following remarks are believed to be consistent with the telephonic interview and thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowance in connection with the present application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 3-5, 12 and 15-16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, the Examiner rejected claims 21-24 as being anticipated by USPN 5,623,875 to Perets. The Examiner also rejected claims 14 and 20 as being obvious over the disclosure in Perets. Finally, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 6-11, 13 and 17-19 over Perets in view of USPN 6,302,022 to Shih.

Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing amendments clearly distinguish the present invention over the disclosure in the Perets patent and the combination of the Perets and Shih patents.

In particular, Applicant submits that Perets does not disclose a hand stamp having oppositely flared ribs and grooves, which secures a case to a frame while at the same time permitting relative vertical movement between the case and the frame.

The amended claims make clear that the ribs have a relatively small width near their base (i.e., adjacent the frame or case) and a relatively larger width at a location remote from their base. This structural description was incorporated into all independent claims to more clearly define what is meant by the term "flaring outwardly." The specification also describes such a flared configuration as being "dove-tailed."

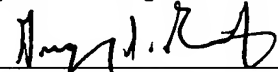
In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw her reliance on the cited prior art references and proceed to issue a Notice of Allowance in connection with the present application.

Applicant has filed the present amendment along with a petition for a two-month extension of time. The Examiner is authorized to charge all fees associated with the present amendment and associated extension petition to Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

Finally, to the extent that the Examiner does not believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, she is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at (908) 518-6343 to discuss any open issues.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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